106 Cottage Street, East Berlin

1896

Elmer W. Stearns (1861-1932) & Luella Woods

Victorian

1985 Townwide Historic and Architectural Survey of Berlin, Connecticut. Survey # 021

1896 Elmer Stearns present owner: Marguerite Ringwold

2018 Town of Berlin GIS Index.

1896 present owners: Robert & Dawn Fischer

Genealogy

Elmer W. Stearns was born in 1861 in New Hampshire. He married Luella Woods. They has children including Harold. Elmer worked as a purchasing agent for a brick company. Elmer died in 1932 and is buried in Wilcox, Cemetery. Luella is buried in Wilcox Cemetery.

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES
HIST-6 NEW 5/77

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Town No.: Site No.:
UTM
QUAD:
DISTRICT ☐ S ☐ NR IF NR, SPECIFY ☐ Actual ☐ Potential

#021

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic): Elmer W. Stearns House
2. TOWN CITY: Berlin VILLAGE: East Berlin COUNTY: Hartford
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 106 Cottage Street 17-4/149/13
4. OWNER(S): Ringwood, Marguerite " " East Berlin 06023 ☐ Public ☒ Private
5. USE (Present) (Historic): Residence / Residence
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD ☒ Yes ☐ No; INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE ☐ Yes ☒ No; IF YES, EXPLAIN

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Victorian Vernacular DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1896
8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate)
☒ Clapboard ☐ Asbestos Siding ☐ Brick ☐ Other (Specify)
☒ Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Siding ☐ Fieldstone
☐ Board & Batten ☐ Stucco ☐ Cobblestone
☐ Aluminum Siding ☐ Concrete Type: ☐ Cut stone Type:
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM
☒ Wood frame ☐ Post and beam ☐ balloon
☐ Load bearing masonry ☐ Structural iron or steel
☐ Other (Specify)
10. ROOF (Type)
☒ Gable ☐ Flat ☐ Mansard ☐ Monitor ☐ sawtooth
☐ Gambrel ☐ Shed ☐ Hip ☐ Round ☐ Other (Specify)
(Material)
☐ Wood Shingle ☐ Roll Asphalt ☐ Tin ☐ Slate ☒ Gable end to the street
☒ Asphalt shingle ☐ Built up ☐ Tile ☐ Other (Specify) ☐ Ridge parallel to the street
11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 1/2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: 20' x 41'
12. CONDITION (Structural) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated (Exterior) ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location) ☒ On original site ☐ Moved WHEN? (Alterations) ☐ Yes ☒ No IF YES, EXPLAIN
14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES
☐ Barn ☐ Shed ☒ Garage ☐ Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
☐ Carriage house ☐ Shop ☐ Garden
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT
☐ Open land ☐ Wood-land ☒ Residential ☐ Scattered buildings visible from site
☐ Commercial ☐ Indus-trial ☐ Rural ☒ High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS

In a mostly Victorian neighborhood.

021

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE
HRC	11/84
VIEW: SW	NEGATIVE ON FILE: D26

COMPILED BY

NAME	DATE
Historic Resource Consultants	12/84

ORGANIZATION
The Colt Armory
55 Van Dyke Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

20 SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATION:

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17 OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

The Elmer W. Stearns House has a two-bay facade with two shallow gabled side ells slightly lower than the main ridgeline. The left entry is modern. All windows have peaked hoods above triple raised panels, and are fitted with 2-over-2 sash. Front and side gable peaks feature moldings across the rake ends, staggered-butt shingles, single attic lights, rake-end brackets with raised floral designs, and simple vergeboards with slats on a recessed central panel. There is a one-story parallel rear extension.

SIGNIFICANCE

18 ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19 HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

Architecturally, the Elmer W. Stearns house is significant as a well-preserved example of Victorian Vernacular housing. Decorative woodwork, the hallmark of the style, is seen here in the window hoods, the porch posts and brackets, and in the treatment of the gable peaks.

Historically, the Elmer W. Stearns House is significant as a good example of the type of working-class housing built in Berlin in the last years of the 19th century. Unlike many of his neighbors, Stearns did not work for Berlin Iron Bridge Company, but as a purchasing agent for one of Berlin's brick companies. He purchased the house and lot in 1896 from builder Oliver Kent, who was heavily involved in the East Berlin real estate market in the 1890s.

SOURCES

1900 Census
Berlin Land Records 44:317 (1896)

21 THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- [X] None known
- [ ] Highways
- [ ] Vandalism
- [ ] Developers
- [ ] Other _____
- [ ] Renewal
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Deterioration
- [ ] Zoning
- [ ] Explanation _____